

mans, Miss Katharine Matthewson, Mrs. Alexis Wilbur-Grey, Miss Alicia Mackenzie, Miss Mary B. Thompson.

Also these published before: Miss Anna McCreary, Miss Janie McNeill, Miss Alice McManus, Miss Mary C. Menenger, Miss Eva Penn, Miss Minnie Willand, Miss Susan B. Houghton, Miss Mary B. Hill.

"Yours very truly,

HARRIET CAMP LOUNSBERRY,

Secretary Order Spanish-American War Nurses.

DEAR EDITOR: Recently there was published in the daily papers an account of a nurse giving an injection of carbolic acid instead of oil to a typhoid patient, thereby causing excruciating suffering and the consequent death of the patient.

Since reading the above it has been in my mind frequently, and while this is offered in no spirit of criticism, or from any desire to publish the circumstance, still, should it not cause both nurses and teachers of nurses to place even greater emphasis upon all possible precautions.

One cannot refrain from wondering whether, in this case, the label was looked at before the contents of the bottle were turned out; also, why did the nurse not detect the acid through her sense of smell?

Let the explanation be what it may, all must agree that these things must not occur through any failure on the part of the instructor of nurses to use every possible means to teach them extreme caution early in their training.

N. E. C.

DEAR EDITOR: I read with much interest the letter written by M. Helena McMillan in the September edition of your JOURNAL. It certainly showed much thought, energy, and enthusiasm. I agree with the writer that the only educational salvation is to have the pupil nurses taught by nurses. But why have her away from the hospital? Couldn't there be a faculty of nurses to teach in their respective hospitals, just as the medical students are taught? Certainly, such subjects as materia medica, cooking, general nursing, obstetrics, anatomy, physiology, and hygiene could be taught by capable nurses. I have watched with keen interest for the past five years the nurses from the large general hospitals to the small sanatoriums, and have yet to find a single candidate for graduation who failed to pass. My contact with nurses for the past six or eight years has convinced me that it is not because they are the brightest and most studious of all students. Is it because their examinations are very simple, or is it because they are treated merely as a joke, a play-toy, by the examining physician?

Are they all allowed to pass and given a diploma to advertise their school, whether they have taken a creditable examination or not?

Will someone answer?

V. V., Richmond, Va.

DEAR EDITOR: There is much sympathetic interest expressed in the pages of the JOURNAL about the nursing of the insane. I would like to say that I am sure that a fine field of work is opening in that line for nurses who have the interest and courage to train for it.

It is a work that requires not only intelligence, but the finest elements of character. It is not ordinary patience and goodness that will adequately meet the demands of constant association with deranged minds. There has been great improvement in the care of the insane, but the new régime of non-restraint,

intelligent observation, diversion, require on the part of the nurse greater ability, patience, and devotion.

All this duty is a great strain on the nervous strength and sympathies of an ordinarily sensitive person. The ideas of many about what it is right that the nurse should have in the way of recreation time, food, and sleeping-accommodations are yet primitive. No one—not even the physician—who has not lived with the insane, hearing, oftentimes, day after day the vilest language or ceaseless melancholic lament, can possibly realize the horror felt by the nurse and the strain it is to bear it.

Inquiry into the length of hours and the number of patients under the nurses' care as compared with the general hospital nurse will indicate the reforms needed. No reflection is cast on the officers of the asylums, as reforms cannot be accomplished in a day, and the cooperation of many people is needed to bring about these changes.

I believe that nurses who are trained in good schools for the care of the nervous and insane should be recognized and allowed to register at the nurses' club registries for their *specialty*; no other nurses are so well fitted to care for those kinds of cases. Dr. Edward Cowles, superintendent of the McLean Hospital for the Insane, Waverly, Mass., and organizer of the Boston City Hospital Training-School for Nurses, also of the only successful system of training nurses for the care of the insane, makes the following statement in his last report, which is worthy of thoughtful consideration by all nurses:

"There is a fallacy somewhere in the position taken by the organized bodies of trained nurses in not recognizing as worthy of membership with them the graduates of schools in hospitals for the insane. It is assumed, even, that no medical nursing is done in such hospitals; it is assumed also that only in a large general hospital can the nurses receive general training, whereas the best training in the general qualifications that make a nurse personally acceptable is to be had where the capacity for adaptation to the varied traits and personalities among her patients is most brought into exercise. In the general hospitals, on the other hand, the pupil nurse is put at once into the practice of the art among patients who are expected to be obedient to her. This throughout appears to be so wholly objective that unless she has inherent certain desirable qualifications she actually acquires a dislike and a certain unfitness not only for nervous and mental cases, but for the work in private families for which a real 'general' training should have qualified her.

"It is quite obvious that there is some error in a course of action which should tend to repress so great a cause as the modern reform in the care of the insane which the system is effecting. The remedy for the present state of things is for the nursing guilds to foster more generously this large and important branch of nursing work. On the other hand, the schools for the insane should make use of the present advancement in the organization of strictly hospital wards and surgical departments for the improvement of the course of training for the nurses."

SARA E. PARSONS,

Graduate of the Boston and Massachusetts General Hospital and the McLean Training-Schools for Nurses.

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DEAR EDITOR: Miss Rudden, in the August JOURNAL, takes exception to the out-door uniforms worn by many of the Chicago nurses and asks for opinions